#### **CLAIMS**

#### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a decorative wood carving, comprising the steps of:

selecting a porous piece of wood;

sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood;

transferring a design onto the first surface of the wood;

trenching said first surface according to the transferred design;

re-sanding the first surface after trenching to remove any remnants of said design;

applying heat to the first surface after trenching to darken at least some sections of said trenched surface; and

applying a finish to said first surface after heating.

- 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said piece of wood is selected from the group consisting of oak, pine, birch, and luana.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood includes sanding two opposing broad surface of the wood.
- 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished by directly drawing the design on said first surface with a soft lead pencil.

- 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished using a stencil.
- 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished using a rub transfer.
- 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a chisel.
- 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a utility knife.
- 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a routing tool.
- 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is no deeper than about 2 centimeters in depth.
- 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said finish is a stain.
- 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said finish is a varnish.
- 13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

after said step of applying a finish, allowing the finish to dry for 2-3 minutes;

removing excess finish with a cloth; and using sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

after said step of using sandpaper to smooth said first surface, applying a second finish to the first surface;

allowing the second finish to dry for 2-3 minutes;

removing excess second finish with a cloth; and

using additional sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of:

applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

17. A method for creating a decorative wood carving, comprising the steps of:

selecting a porous piece of wood;

sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood;

using a soft pencil to draw a design onto the first surface of the wood;

trenching said first surface by following the penciled design;

re-sanding the first surface after trenching to remove any remnants of said design;

applying heat to the first surface after trenching to darken at least some sections of said trenched surface;

re-sanding said first surface after said step
of applying heat;

applying a finish to said first surface after heating;

allowing the finish to dry for 2-3 minutes; removing excess finish with a cloth; and using sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of:

applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

- 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein said finish is a stain.
- 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein said finish is a varnish.